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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DUBLIN-AREA RESIDENTS
INDICTED ON FIREARMS AND DRUG CHARGES

SAVANNAH, GA: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that the federal grand jury sitting in Savannah has returned an indictment against five Dublin-area residents on federal firearms charges. The indictment was brought in conjunction with Project Ceasefire, a district-wide effort begun in 2000, which is devoted to combating gun violence by prosecuting individuals who illegally possess firearms, such as felons in possession of firearms.

Four of the Dublin-area residents named in the indictment follow:

1. Gregory Bernard Coney, charged in one count with Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon. The indictment charges that between August and October of 2004, in Laurens County, Coney possessed a .38 caliber revolver and ammunition. His prior felony convictions include Aggravated Assault, Felony Obstruction of an Officer, and Possession With Intent to Distribute Cocaine. This charge typically carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. However, because Coney has been previously convicted of at least three felony offenses which were either crimes of violence or serious drug offenses committed on occasions different from one another, if convicted, he faces a sentence of not less than 15 years nor more than life imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000.

2. Danny Davis, charged in one count with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. The indictment states that between August and October of 2004, in Laurens County, Davis possessed a .22 caliber pistol after having previously been convicted of the felony Possession With Intent to Distribute Marijuana. If convicted, he faces a sentence of ten years imprisonment, and \$250,000 in fines.

3. Kenyadus Demakes Height, charged in two counts with Possession of Firearms and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon. The indictment charges that in April 2004, Height possessed a 9 millimeter semi-automatic pistol, and in October 2004, he possessed a .20 gauge shotgun and several rounds of ammunition. Prior to that time, Height had been convicted in Laurens County Superior Court of felonies including False Imprisonment and Aggravated Assault, False

Imprisonment (3 Counts), and Theft by Taking. If convicted, Height faces up to ten years imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine, on each count.

4. Timothy Wells, charged in two counts with Possession With Intent to Distribute Cocaine, and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Wells' prior convictions include Possession of Cocaine With Intent to Distribute, Trafficking in Cocaine, and Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Distribute. If convicted of the drug charge, Wells will face a sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine. On the firearms charge, Wells has been previously convicted of at least three serious drug offenses committed on separate occasions, and, therefore, if convicted, he faces a sentence of not less than 15 years nor more than life imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000.

The four defendants were arrested on January 13 and Davis was detained following a detention hearing. A detention hearing has been set on January 21 for defendant Coney. The other two defendants were released on bond. One defendant remains a fugitive.

Wood praised the cooperative efforts of the Dublin Police Department, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) which led to the indictment and arrests.

Wood emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Nancy C. Greenwood and Patricia G. Johnson.

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